



HAMPSHIRE

chamber of commerce

Tuesday 1st August 2017

FREEPOST A31 Ringwood
And by email to:
A31Ringwood@highwaysengland.co.uk

Wates House
Ground Floor
Wallington Hill
Fareham
Hampshire
PO16 7BJ

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: A31 Consultation

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support in principle the proposals insofar as they relate to the widening of the A31 at Ringwood as more fully described in the Public Consultation document entitled "A31 Ringwood Improvement Scheme" for the various reasons described therein.

With significant proposed residential development in West Moors, for example, and other areas within East Dorset and Christchurch added to the anticipated major increase in commercial development to the North of Bournemouth International Airport, not to speak of the expansion plans for the Airport itself, it is clear that a discernible improvement to the existing road infrastructure is an imperative.

However, we must express our concern at the associated total closure of Ringwood's West Street at its junction with the A31 which we understand would adversely impact upon the efficient operation of the depot operated by Morebus which is itself situated in West Street, to the detriment of local bus services, those members of the public who make use of them and, potentially therefore, to certain local businesses.

It is understood that modern technology would permit the use of West Street by buses only allowing them to access the A31 on a limited basis since they would otherwise have to turn around in their existing depot and return via both Market Street and the High Street which, on occasions, would be extremely difficult if not actually posing a threat to public safety especially on market days.

In the hope that the foregoing comments are of some assistance to you, we should be grateful if you could keep us informed of your progress in reaching a conclusion on this important issue.

Yours faithfully,

Maureen Frost
Chief Executive

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